

COUNTRY GERMANY		REPORT NO. 59B-1633A	(LEAVE BLANK) EP 143707
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT			
SUBJECT SEE CONTENTS BELOW		(Interviewer) REHDER, Werner (FN)	(Editor) TAHT
AREA REPORTED ON VORKUTA, USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAF)	
DATE OF REPORT 18 - 19 May 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Feb 51 - Jun 53		EVALUATION C-3
PREPARED BY (Officer) EDWARD E. LUNDAK, Lt Col., USAF		SOURCE 67691	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)			

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

I. TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Report 59B-1633A, Area Description of VORKUTA (6730N/6400E) (2U) **A**

II. DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE:

Civilian

Education 8 years

Trade or profession . . machine locksmith

Years practiced 4 years

Present occupation. . . none

Military

Years of Service 1 year

Highest rank Off.

candidate

Branch AF

School

By whom captured Russians

SOURCE HISTORY:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Camp No.</u>	<u>City or Area</u>	<u>Place of work and duties</u>
Jun 50		GUBEN	MVD office, interrogation
Jun 50-Jan 51		POTSDAM	sentenced
Jan 51-Feb 51		BERLIN-LICHTENBERG	jail
Feb 51-Jun 53	3	VORKUTA	coal mines, gen laborer
Jul 53-Dec 53		TAPIAU, East Prussia	Jail, collection dept.
Dec 53		repatriated	

III. SOURCE RELIABILITY:

S, a citizen of EZG, was accused of smuggling mail from Poland to SZG and sentenced to 25 years hard labor in Jun 50. During his stay in Russia he learned to command this language fairly well. S gave his info in a very willing manner, his ability to remember details, to read maps and his intelligence were of good average. S seemed to be reliable.

APPROVED:

Henry C. Bolser
D. M. ALLISON
Colonel, United States Air Force
Commander

1 INCL.

Overlay of WAC 94 p.5

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I. PREAMBLE:

S was interned in forced labor camp # 3 (the camp for coal mines # 12, 14 and 16) 15 km N of VORKUTA (6730N/6400E) from Feb 51 to Jun 53. During this period he was engaged as a general laborer in a transport gang underground and above ground in coal mines 12, 14 and 16. S had no chances to leave the premises of his camp or his places of work and S's observations were made from the mine dumps near the mines 12, 14 and 16. Info contained in this report is based on S's personal observations unless otherwise stated.

II. LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND PTS OF INTEREST:

Ref is made to Incl 1, this Report, Overlay of WAC 94, OB' RIVER MOUTH, on which S identified the following pts.

1. TOWN OF VORKUTA (6730N/6400E). Only seen in Feb 51 when entering and in Jun 53 when leaving this region. The town consisted of widely spread single and 2-story wooden bldgs with shingle covered low pitch gable roofs. Estimated population of 20,000.
2. VORKUTA RIVER. 100 m wide bed with 5 to 10 m high gravel banks. Almost dry in the months from Jun to Aug.
3. AIRFIELD. Located directly NNW of town as S saw from the transit camp from where he was transferred to forced labor camp # 3 (pt 9). S observed a daily traffic of twin engine DOUGLAS a/c which arrived from MOSKVA (5545N/3735E) and left for the capital with courier mail. The grass covered flat airfield had no hangars.
4. BRICK YARD. Approx location, only illuminated yard seen from a distance of 10 km from the mine dumps near forced labor camp (pt 9).
5. SRR. RSG, laid on wooden ties on a split rock bed, partly on an embankment partly on flat ground, according to surrounding terrain. Built by Russian forced laborers in 37. From this line all mines were served by RR sidings. As far as S could see this line ended 20 km N of VORKUTA (pt 1). This line connected the region of VORKUTA via INTA (6551N/6000E approx), PECHORA (6525N/5702E), UKHTA (6334N/5342E) with the RR center KOTLAS (6116N/4635E). S passed these towns on his home trip in Summer 53. From KOTLAS the RR line ran via VOLOGDA (5920N/3940E) to LENINGRAD (5955N/3015E). S-bound traffic carried coal to LENINGRAD, N-bound traffic carried bldg materials, machinery, food, mine props and boards. Mainly 4-axle high-side gondolas (each 60 tons cap) were used on this line.
6. POWER PLANT UNDER CONSTR. Never entered, only seen from mine dumps near forced labor camp # 3 (pt 9) at a distance of about 3 km. S also observed that a dam via the VORKUTA River (pt 2) was under constr. From a German engineer named BLUM, now resident of W sector of BERLIN (5231N/1321E), S heard that excavations for foundation of turbines were under way and that this plant was to become a combined thermal and hydroelectric power plant.
7. RIVER. 15 to 20 m wide tributary of VORKUTA River (pt 2).
8. CEMENT PLANT WITH QUARRY. Never entered, S only observed from mine dumps near his forced labor camp # 3 (pt 9) this cement plant which was located on a small barren hill. It covered an area of about 300 x 300 m with a 60 m long and 18 m high brick or concrete bldg. From other forced laborers S knew that a limestone quarry was near to this plant.
9. FORCED LABOR CAMP # 3. It consisted of about 30 single story wooden huts and had a cap of about 5,000 male forced laborers. The camp had its own supply base which was filled up by daily RR transports from VORKUTA. The camp with its coal mines 12, 14 and 16 was surrounded by 3 m high barbed wire, additionally secured by 5 m high wooden watch towers, manned by Army soldiers, armed with carbines and sub-machine guns. Each hut had a loudspeaker, directed from VORKUTA. The inmates of this camp were of all races and religions, such as Chinese, Spaniards, Italians, Latvians, Estonians, Ukrainians, Poles and

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Germans. Even an unkn American (about 35 years of age, dark-blond, 5.8 feet tall) was interned here until Fall 52.

10. RIVER. Name unkn. 25 m wide tributary of VORKUTA River (pt 1).

IV. GENERAL INFO:

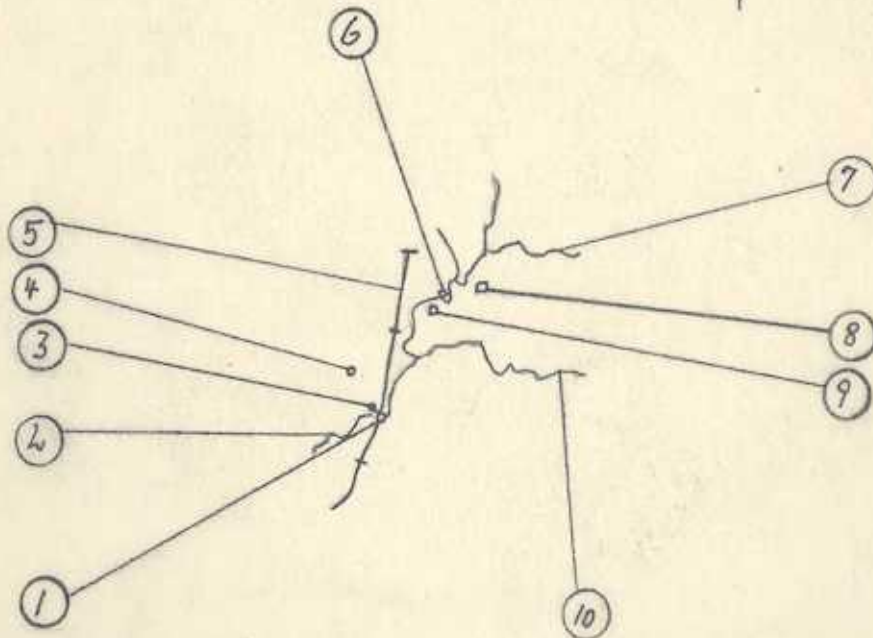
The surrounding completely infertile terrain was flat with some small barren hills. All food supply had to be brought in by RR. The region had an estimated population of 250,000 to 300,000 forced laborers. The conditions in forced labor camps were beyond any European imagination, many disputes of opposing groups ended in bloodshed. Their only agreement was their opposition to the Soviet system. The majority of the inmates expected a change of their fate after the election of General EISENHOWER. In Spring 53 extracts of the new President's speeches were broadcast by loudspeakers in which it was said that only a strong hand would be able to set bounds to Russia's desires. The spirit of the inmates grew from day to day and everybody caught at this far away straw: The hope of American intervention. The non-fulfillment of EISENHOWER's speeches in which he had promised final decisions for 53 did not strengthen the anti Soviet attitude of the forced laborers. A frequently heard watchword among the Russian forced laborers was: "If I were EISENHOWER for only 5 minutes, I would know what to do". All of them regarded a war between the Western Powers and the USSR as inevitable and all of S's acquaintances believed that this would improve their own and their families lots. All forced labor camps were administered by MVD troops, while Soviet Army soldiers guarded premises of coal mines etc. S noticed that mainly young soldiers of 19 to 20 years of age served in this region, and S heard from Russian forced laborers that young men of N-Russia, when drafted, received their basic training here. From his Russian co-workers he also heard of frequent discrepancies between MVD and Army members. He also heard from rumors among the forced laborers that the MVD chief of this region, a General (name unkn) fled this region with his family in Summer 52. Daily interrogations and transfers of MVD personnel were the result. Strongest opponents to the Soviet system, S came across, were the Baltic people, of whom S recalled particularly German speaking Estonians who had built up an illegal group. They intended to strengthen their own group by supporting each other, by meeting secretly at remote working places and by keeping strictly separate from any other Russian forced laborer. S estimated this group approx 35 men who were 30 % intelligentsia. Their goal was to be prepared for taking over admin in this camp on Day-X (day of liberation). In Spring 53 political and criminal prisoners serving terms of 5 years or less were released. On 16 Jun 53 S himself was released and transferred by RR to a collecting camp in jail of TAPIAU (5439N/2105E). 3 weeks later a fellow PW of S arrived in this town from VORKUTA, where his release had been delayed because of sickness. This man, electrical engineer RUTENBERG, told him the following story: On 19 or 20 Jun 53, shortly after radio announcement of the suppression of the BERLIN riots, the entire camps of VORKUTA region were filled with unrest. Handwritten unsigned pamphlets were fastened to machines, conveyor belts, mine carts etc with the approx Russian text to refuse the work, to pull down the barbed wire fences, to finish up with the forced labor camp methods and to release the prisoners of jails within forced labor camps. The work was discontinued by all forced laborers immediately. Hereupon a 2nd cordon of guards was set up around the fenced in coal mine area, and the forced laborers were driven together into their huts of the camp. A danger area, marked by flags, was established around the camps jail and the camp's main entrance with the decision that each forced laborer would be shot at as soon as he passed these lines. Clashes between forced laborers and guards resulted in 6 forced labor casualties. Thereafter no work was carried out for 1 week. A MOSKVA commission which arrived shortly

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afterwards restored peace in camp, but general conditions did not change a bit. Suspected revolt leaders were put before a military tribunal, outcome of trial was unkn as S's comrade left before announcement of decree.

W. J. Sullivan
Capt USAF
for: EDWARD E. LUNDAK
Lt Col., USAF
Commander
7059th AISS



OVERLAY OF WAC 94 OF
OB' RIVER MOUTH
INCL 1, REPORT 59B-1633-A

